

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

An important feature of the claimed methods is that the water content in the cleaning agent composition is controlled to 0.0001 to 0.5% by mass. See the last two lines of Claims 1 and 7. As described in the specification, controlling the water content at that level decreases the amount of damage to the microstructure. See page 4, second full paragraph, and Table 1 at page 19.

The rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Castrucchi is respectfully traversed. The cited reference fails to suggest the claimed method.

Castrucchi disclose a variety of chemical components of a cleaning agent composition. Water is not one of those components. Accordingly, the claimed methods are not obvious over that reference. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon

James J. Kelly, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 41,504

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)